

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L RECIFE 0114

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BR

SUBJECT: MRS. CARTER'S LAST 24 HOURS, JUNE 7-8

1. MIDMORNING JUNE 7 THE FIRST LADY MET WITH PRESIDENT GEISEL FOR AN HOUR AND 10 MINUTES. PRESENT WERE MRS. CARTER, GEISEL, FONMIN SILVEIRA AND AMBASSADOR CRIMMINS, WHOSE MEMCON DETAILS MEETING. MAJOR TOPICS RAISED BY MRS. CARTER WERE THE ADMINISTRATION'S BASIC APPROACH TO FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS, WITH EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN THE PRESIDENT'S OAS SPEECH AND THE SECRETARY'S ADDRESS IN ATLANTA.

2. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING, SHE MET SEPARATELY WITH THE PRESIDENTS OF THE CONGRESS, THE SENATE, AND THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES IN CEREMONIAL BUT SYMBOLIC COURTESY CALLS.

3. AFTER A PRIVATE LUNCH AT CRIMMINS' RESIDENCE, SHE HELD A 30-MINUTES PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE HOTEL NACIONAL (TRANSCRIPT SENT SEPARATELY) AND IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WENT TO THE FINANCE MINISTRY TO MEET WITH FINMIN SIMONSON FOR A BRIEF BUT QUITE SPECIFIC DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC AND TRADE QUESTIONS (SEPARATE MEMCON SENT). MRS. CARTER THEN CALLED UPON THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME FEDERAL TRIBUNAL FOR ANOTHER CEREMONIAL BUT SIGNIFICANT GESTURE.

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4. AT EIGHT IN THE EVENING SHE WENT TO THE HOME OF PRESIDENT GEISEL FOR AN INFORMAL DINNER, THE FIRST VISITING DIGNITARY TO BE SO HONORED. AT THEIR MEETING IN THE MORNING, GEISEL REGRETTED THEY HAD SCHEDULED SO LITTLE TIME FOR FORMAL TALK AND SUGGESTED THEY RESUME THE DISCUSSION INFORMALLY WHEN THEY MET LATER. FOR THREE HOURS OVER DINNER, MRS. CARTER, GEISEL, AND SILVEIRA,

ALL SPEAKING IN ENGLISH, DEVOTED THEMSELVES MOSTLY TO THE ISSUES OF NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION, BUT ALSO DISCUSSED HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN BRAZIL.

A. GEISEL OUTLINED HIS OBJECTIONS TO SIGNING THE NPT AS WELL AS HIS INTENTION NOT TO PUT THE TREATY OF TLATLELOCO INTO EFFECT. THESE APPEAR TO BE FIRMLY ROOTED IN FEAR AND SUSPICION OF SOVIET DESIGNS AND INTENTIONS. HE DID, HOWEVER, INDICATE A WILLINGNESS TO TALK WITH US ON NPT AND APPEARED GREATLY INTERESTED IN THE THORIUM ALTERNATIVE TO URANIUM ENRICHMENT. GEISEL ALSO ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE WHICH HAD FIGURED SO HEAVILY IN MRS. CARTER'S AFTERNOON PRESS CONFERENCE. (COMMENT: WITH ALL THE HEAVY EMPHASIS ON PROLIFERATION IN THIS CONVERSATION, GEISEL REVEALED NO REAL SIGN OF GIVE; WHAT CAME THROUGH CLEAREST WAS HIS CONCERN WITH THE PERCEIVED SOVIET THREAT TO THOSE AREAS WHERE BRAZILIAN INTERESTS ARE SEEN TO LIE.)

B. SILVEIRA, REINFORCING THE STRONG VIEWS OF HIS CHIEF, SAID BRAZIL IS UNWILLING TO ACCEPT TLATLELOCO BECAUSE THE BRAZILIAN PEOPLE FEAR ARGENTINE DESIGNS AND INTENTIONS.

5. ON THE FLIGHT TO RECIFE EARLY TODAY, MRS. CARTER INFORMED THE PRESS ABOARD THAT SHE INTENDED TO MEET AT THE CONGEN LATER IN DAY WITH TWO PRIESTS WHO RECENTLY WERE DETAINED AND ABUSED BY BRAZILIAN SECURITY AUTHORITIES. SHE ALSO BRIEFED THEM IN GENERAL TERMS ON HER TALKS THE NIGHT BEFORE WITH GIESEL AND SILVEIRA.

6. FOLLOWING HER WARMLY WELCOMED ARRIVAL IN RECIFE, WHERE
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SHE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATING TO HELP THE POOREST COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, SHE PROCEEDED IMMEDIATELY TO VISIT A GOVERNMENT HOUSING PROJECT. EXTREMELY HEAVY MEDIA COVERAGE, FOULED UP LOGISTICS CAUSED BY HER DECISION TO SWITCH THE SCHEDULE, LARGE AND FRIENDLY CROWDS, AND DEEP MUD AT THE SITE LENT A CARNIVAL ATMOSPHERE TO THE SCENE. HER VISIT TO A WORKER'S FAMILY'S HOME BROUGHT WHAT PROBABLY WAS THE HEAVIEST ELECTRONIC MEDIA COVERAGE OF HER TOUR TO DATE. TO NEWS VETERANS, IT WAS REMINISCENT OF THE KHRUSCHEV VISIT TO US IN 1959, ONLY IN A STEAMY TROPICAL SETTING.

7. AFTER A BRIEF DETOUR TO THE STEINER RESIDENCE FOR A BITE TO EAT, MRS. CARTER WENT TO THE CONGEN WHERE A CRUSH OF NEWSPERSONS AWAITED THE RESULTS OF HER ENCOUNTER WITH THE PRIESTS, WHOM SHE MET WITH IN PRIVATE. SHE AGAIN MET THE PRESS ON DEPARTING THE CONSULATE BUILDING AND THEN WENT TO THE STEINER RESIDENCE.

8. SHE IS RESTING THERE TONIGHT, PREPARING HER PROGRAM FOR

BOGOTA TOMORROW.
HOFFENBERG

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